

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims according to the following claim listing.

1. – 21. (Canceled)
22. (New) A method of depleting anti-major histocompatibility complex (anti-MHC) antibodies in a sample, wherein the method comprises:
 - a. contacting the sample with recombinant MHC or recombinant MHC-type molecules, wherein the recombinant MHC or recombinant MHC-type molecules are sufficiently antigenic to be bound by anti-MHC antibodies in the sample; and
 - b. removing the bound anti-MHC antibodies from the sample, whereby the sample has been depleted of anti-MHC antibodies.
23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the recombinant MHC or recombinant MHC-type molecules are linked to a solid support.
24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the sample is a serum sample.
25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the anti-MHC antibodies are anti-human leukocyte antigen (anti-HLA) antibodies.
26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the recombinant MHC or recombinant MHC-type molecules are Class I human leukocyte antigen (HLA) molecules.
27. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the recombinant MHC or recombinant MHC-type molecules are monomers of a Class I human leukocyte antigen (HLA) molecule.
28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the recombinant MHC or recombinant MHC-type molecules comprise a class I heavy chain HLA monomer, a class I beta-2-microglobulin HLA monomer and a folding peptide.
29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said folding peptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence selected from the group

consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6
SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8.

30. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the recombinant MHC or recombinant MHC-type molecules are Class II human leukocyte antigen (HLA) molecules.
31. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the recombinant MHC or recombinant MHC-type molecules comprise monomers of a Class II human leukocyte antigen (HLA) molecule.
32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the recombinant MHC or recombinant MHC-type molecules comprise a class II heavy chain HLA monomer, a class II beta-2-microglobulin HLA monomer and a folding peptide.
33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein said folding peptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6 SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8.
34. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the solid support comprises s support selected from the group consisting of a nitrocellulose strip, a nylon membrane, a nitrocellulose membrane, non-magnetic beads and magnetic beads.
35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said solid support comprises magnetic beads.
36. (New) A method of depleting anti-human leukocyte antigens (anti-HLA) antibodies in a patient serum sample, wherein the method comprises:
 - a. contacting the sample with recombinant HLA or recombinant HLA-type molecules, wherein the recombinant HLA or recombinant HLA-type molecules are sufficiently antigenic to be bound by anti-HLA antibodies in the sample; and
 - b. removing the bound anti-HLA antibodies from the sample, whereby the sample has been depleted of anti-HLA antibodies.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the recombinant HLA or recombinant HLA-type molecules are linked to a solid support.
38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the recombinant HLA or recombinant HLA-type molecules are Class I human leukocyte antigen (HLA) molecules.
39. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the recombinant HLA or recombinant HLA-type molecules are monomers of a Class I human leukocyte antigen (HLA) molecule.
40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the recombinant HLA or recombinant HLA-type molecules comprise a class I heavy chain HLA monomer, a class I beta-2-microglobulin HLA monomer and a folding peptide.
41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein said folding peptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8.
42. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the recombinant HLA or recombinant HLA-type molecules are Class II human leukocyte antigen (HLA) molecules.
43. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the recombinant HLA or recombinant HLA-type molecules comprise monomers of a Class II human leukocyte antigen (HLA) molecule.
44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the recombinant HLA or recombinant HLA-type molecules comprise a class II heavy chain HLA monomer, a class II beta-2-microglobulin HLA monomer and a folding peptide.
45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein said folding peptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8.

Reply and Amendment

Serial No.: 10/623,802

Filing Date: July 22, 2003

Title: Methods

Atty. Dkt. No. 0618.054.0003

46. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the solid support comprises a support selected from the group consisting of a nitrocellulose strip, a nylon membrane, a nitrocellulose membrane, non-magnetic beads and magnetic beads.
47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said solid support comprises magnetic beads.